

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

Claim ~~24~~¹ (previously presented) A process for the production of hydrocarbons and ammonia, the process including the steps of:

- by means of air separation means, separating air into oxygen and nitrogen;
- in a reforming section, reacting natural gas, steam and oxygen from the air separation facility, to form synthesis gas;
- in a hydrogen extraction unit, extracting hydrogen from at least a portion of the synthesis gas;
- thereafter feeding the synthesis gas into a Fischer-Tropsch reactor in which hydrocarbons are produced from the synthesis gas, with the reforming section, the hydrogen extraction unit and the Fischer-Tropsch reactor forming part of a hydrocarbon synthesis process; and
- feeding at least a portion of the extracted hydrogen into an ammonia synthesis process together with the nitrogen from the air separation means, with the air separation means thus being a combined air separation means for both the hydrocarbon synthesis process and the ammonia synthesis process, and with the reforming section thus being a combined reforming section for both the hydrocarbon synthesis process and the ammonia synthesis process so that separate reforming sections for the hydrocarbon synthesis process and the ammonia synthesis process are not required.

Claim ~~25~~² (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim ~~24~~¹, wherein the hydrogen is extracted until a H_2/CO ratio of synthesis gas fed to the Fischer-Tropsch reactor is lower than or equal to 2.5.

Claim ~~26~~³ (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim ~~24~~¹, wherein the H_2/CO ratio is lower than or equal to 2.

Claim ~~27~~⁴ (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of claim 24~~¹, wherein only a portion of the synthesis gas is sent to the hydrogen extraction unit and is divided into a hydrogen-rich stream, at least a portion of which is fed into the ammonia synthesis process, and a hydrogen-poor stream.

Claim ~~28~~⁵ (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim ~~27~~⁴, wherein the hydrogen-poor stream is returned to the hydrocarbon synthesis process.

Claim ~~29~~⁶ (previously presented) A process as claimed in ~~27~~⁴, wherein the hydrogen-poor stream is used as fuel gas.

Claim ~~30~~⁷ (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim ~~27~~⁴, wherein CO and/or CO_2 are removed from the hydrogen-poor stream.

Claim ~~31~~⁸ (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim ~~24~~¹, wherein at least a portion of CO_2 is removed from the synthesis gas stream prior to the synthesis gas

stream entering the Fischer-Tropsch reactor.

⁹
Claim 32 (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim ¹24, wherein a portion of a Fischer-Tropsch tail gas is returned to the reforming section of the hydrocarbon synthesis process.

Claims 33 - 41 (cancelled)